

# PREFACE

*Alaska is cold, numbing wind-chill that kills, called The Hawk;  
Unconquered bear and trusting ptarmigan; Months of darkness, months of daylight;  
Coiling northern lights; towering, jagged mountains; treacherous glaciers;  
And the chilling, plaintive howl of wolves echoing across the still moonlit steppe.*

*The land is rich;  
The citizens are independent and tough;  
And the soldiers are the [172nd Infantry Brigade].<sup>1</sup>*

U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, is proud of its contribution toward the defense of the United States of America. For over 50 years, Fort Wainwright has trained soldiers and other members of the United States Armed Forces in skills needed to win on the harshest battlefields of the world. The mission of Fort Wainwright has changed over the decades... from the defense of Alaska in World War II... to today's peacetime mission of worldwide deployment to protect the United States' interests, and to defend Alaska. Training opportunities provided at Fort Wainwright are first rate today, just as they have been over the decades.

The land and its natural resources are vital to the well-being of Fort Wainwright. A huge stewardship responsibility comes with these public lands. U.S. Army Alaska is committed to that stewardship role. Both land and natural resources management have improved over the years, and will continue to do so. These lands are critical to the military mission and are important to the well-being of our community and to the nation's environmental health.

This Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan is Fort Wainwright's plan of action for the care and wise use of the lands entrusted to the U.S. Army. While the plan covers a five-year period, the philosophy behind it will guide natural resource management over a much longer period of time. Fort Wainwright is committed to using an ecosystem management approach to its natural resources program. This approach helps protect biological diversity and facilitates sound decisions regarding the use of renewable natural resources to support both the military mission and needs of the region.

Abundant and diverse natural resources and a healthy environment... now and forever... this is the commitment of U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the Introduction, *Natural Resources Conservation Program* (Quirk, Gossweiler, and Kiker. 1978).